

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2932
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2007
AIR FARE FOR HAJ PILGRIMS
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Deora Shri Milind Murl

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was a proposal to hike the airfare for Haj pilgrims this year but the same has been declined by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the present fare per person for Haj pilgrims with the break up of actual fare and subsidy and since when it has remained unchanged;
- (d) the number of the devotees expected to undertake the pilgrimage from India this year and the details of the assistance being provided by the Union Government;
- (e) whether airport tax of 50 Saudi Riyals, imposed for the first time by the Saudi authorities, would also be met by the Union Government; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefore and the total amount that the Union Government will have to entail on this account?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

- (a), (b) and (c): The airfare per pilgrim for Haj 2007 has increased to approximately Rs. 46,000. The amount paid by the pilgrim is Rs.12,000/- and the balance amount of approximately Rs.34,000/- is the subsidy. The amount charged from the pilgrims has remained unchanged since 1994.
- (d): The number of devotees expected to undertake the pilgrimage from India this year through the Central Haj Committee is approximately 1,10,000. These pilgrims are provided subsidy in airfare by the Government.
- (e) and (f): No, Sir. Airport Tax of 50 Saudi Riyals would be recovered from Haj pilgrims.